(in million standard cubic metres)

ONGC	:	591.30
OIL	:	149.80
Pvt. Cos./JVs	:	69.42

(c) Presently, ONGC and Pvt. Cos./JVs do not have any plan for gas storage. However, OIL has facilities to store gas in underground reservoir.

The following measures have been or are being taken by ONGC, OIL and Pvt. Cos/JVs to reduce flaring of gas:

i) Installation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for effective control of gas system.

ii) Getting new fields connected to the gas network immediately.

iii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of gas holders to negate the surging effect.

iv) Supply of low pressure gas from marginal fields directly to low pressure systems of tea gardens in the vicinity.

v) Further de-bottlenecking of existing gas transportation lines.

vi) Boosting of low pressure gas at isolated fields through gas compression.

vii) Identification of small consumers near isolated fields where gas is being produced at low pressure in low quantities.

viii) Urging consumers of natural gas to uplift committed quantity of gas as there are no fall back customers.

ix) Installation of low pressure booster compressors.

x) Implementation of Zero Gas Flaring Projects at Offshore installations.

Petroleum deposits in Goa

2688. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any petroleum deposit have been found off the Coast of Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Nos, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil import bill

2689. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's net oil import bill stood at Rs. 1,50,492 crores in 2005-06 as compared to Rs. 1,03,462 crore in the previous fiscal;

(b) if so, whether bill of crude oil & petroleum products have slow down India's economic growth; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to meet the situation and reduce import of both crude oil and petroleum products by 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The net import bill during 2005-06 was Rs. 1,50,557 crore against Rs. 1,01,963 crore during the fiscal years of 2004-05.

(b) Increase in import bill due to fluctuation in international oil prices etc. has a cascading effect on the overall economy affecting primary sectors such as transport, power, fertilizers, etc. besides generating inflationary pressures and slowing down the growth rate of the economy.

(c) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:

i. increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP): Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP;

ii. improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. In particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would